

S/N 10/032,700  
Ref. No.: 659-911  
Client Ref. No.: K-C 17154

discussed claim 1 in view of USP 5,624,428 to Sauer. For the reasons set forth below, the Examiner agreed that Sauer did not anticipate claim 1 and that the rejection would be withdrawn.

In particular, claim 1, as well as the remaining independent claims 5 and 16, each recite a fastener member, or a portion thereof, “attached to [a] *body side* of [a] first body panel” and “releasably attached to [a] *body side* of [a] second body panel.” Likewise, independent method claims 21 and 29 each recite applying a first portion of a fastener member “to [a] *body side* of [a] first body panel,” and “releasably applying [a] *body side* of [a] second body panel” to a second portion of the fastener member. In this way, the fastener is attached to the *body side* of both the first and second body panels.

In contrast, the fastener member of Sauer is attached to the body side of body panel 24, but is attached to the *garment side* of the body panel 22 (*see* FIGS. 1-3, 6 and 7). Accordingly, the body panels of Sauer overlap, in contrast to Applicants’ fastening system, which “avoids the need to overlap the first and second body panels” (Specification at 3, lines 27-31; *see* Fig. 1). For these reasons, as agreed by the Examiner, Sauer does not disclose all of the recitations of claim 1, or similarly claims 5, 16, 21 and 29, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner’s rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to allowance.

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Any questions concerning this Reply should be directed to the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

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Respectfully submitted,



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